



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Friday 21 November 2025

SEMAPHORE SHORT

AHOY SHIPMATES 2025 has been a significant year for anniversaries, besides our own. Perhaps most significant was the marking of the 80th anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day – a time to celebrate the return of peace, while this year's season of Remembrance allowed us to solemnly honour those who paid the ultimate price. But remembrance is not just for 11 November – brave men and women, and their predecessors, are rightly honoured by shipmates throughout the year across the country and beyond.

ON LOCATION The RNA has a location on Google Maps for Central Office in Portsmouth Naval Base. It now has a range of photographs available on the site which you are free to browse and download. If this trial proves popular then more images will be added which highlight the ethos and activities of your Association and fellow shipmates. These are all RNA Copyright images. Any feedback to the RNA Comms team please.

PAPERWORK Essential documents for the 2026 National Conference in Salford are available at the back of the November Semaphore Circular – [click here](#).

RUGBY CLASH Tickets for the 2026 Army v Navy rugby match at the Allianz Stadium, Twickenham, on Saturday 2 May are now available to RNA members at a special rate of £44.20. The tickets allow access to a private bar adjacent to our allocated seating area. Use the [link here](#) to buy your tickets – once you have stated your required tickets the Rugby Football Union (RFU) will contact you directly to complete the transaction. For those who have already ordered, you should hear from the RFU soon – the ticket distribution process was delayed by the need to handle the England v All Blacks game last Saturday.



SAILOR SOLDIERS RNA members were out in force to help in the dedication of a national monument to the Royal Naval Division (RND). This unit, initially formed of sailors who had not yet been allocated to a ship, served with distinction in the trenches of the Western Front and Gallipoli in World War 1, and in 1925 a memorial in the form of a fountain was erected in their honour on Horse Guards Parade, just off Whitehall in London, marking the tenth anniversary of the Gallipoli landings. In the intervening years the monument was moved during World War 2 as part of building work on the Admiralty Citadel, and it only returned to Whitehall from Greenwich in 2003. For the full story, and more images by S/M Nigel Huxtable, see the December edition of the Semaphore Circular.

PLAY THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION WEEKLY LOTTERY AND WIN UP TO £25,000

[PLAY NOW](#)

ON THE CARDS Shipmates have a choice of designs for this year's RNA Christmas cards, which feature tradition festive fare (perky robins, for example) and a nod to the maritime with a snowy harbour scene. The cards are available from [our webshop](#) in packs of ten. Each pack contains two different designs, donkeys (with the odd RNA beret) and robins in one, the other features robins and that wintry harbour. Each pack costs £4.50 including postage. And that's not all – our 2026 slimline diary is also now available at £7 (including postage), as well as the RNA hanging gingerbread sailor decoration (£9).

CIRCULAR DEADLINE

All submissions for the December edition should be with us by 1000 on Wednesday 3 December. The Circular will be published on Friday 5 December.

FIRESIDE CHATS

Our next Fireside Chat is on Monday (24 November) when Stew Kilby will brief on the RND Battlefield Tour. Fireside Chats start at 1830 every Monday, and to access the chats, log into Zoom [here](#). The meeting ID is 288 830 5105 and the access password is Shipmate.

RNA Central Office,
Lanyard House, Scott Road, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LU
comms@rnassoc.org
www.royal-naval-association.co.uk



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